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BOOK REVIEWS.

BAILMENTS. By Wyatt Paine. London: Sweet and Maxwell. 1901. pp. lxxxviii, 550.

Not only has the author discussed the law of bailments with much fulness in this volume, but he has considered several cognate topics, such as bills of sales, chattel mortgages, the contract of lien with an option of purchase, and the liens of various persons who are not usually thought of as bailees. Indeed, the alternative title—"A Commentary on the Law of Custody and Possession, as distinguished from Property, in Chattels"—which we find on the somewhat crowded title-page, appears to us more truly descriptive of the work, than the one word "Bailments," which heads the page and appears alone on the back of the bound volume.

Lord Holt's classification of bailments, in the famous case of *Coggs v. Bernard*, is followed by Mr. Paine, who stands ready to defend it against all critics. In his opinion, it is to be "regarded as permanently authoritative." He does not hesitate to quote freely from Sir William Jones and other old writers, but he is equally familiar with the latest English decisions, and his presentation of this branch of the law is very satisfactory. English statutes relating to the liabilities of innkeepers, to railway and canal traffic and the like, are carefully considered and many of their provisions set out in full. In the appendices are extracts from the "Commonwealth of Australia and Constitution Act" of 1900 and from the Indian Contract Act, relative to bailments, with a commentary thereon, as well as with generous citations from the Australian and Indian reports.

For the British practitioner, whether in England or the colonies, the book ought to prove a valuable one. As it rarely cites American cases or refers to American text books, it cannot be very useful to the average lawyer in this country.

THE LIABILITY OF MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS FOR TORT. By Waterman L. Williams. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. 1901. pp. xxxix, 345.

The tendency of many modern text books seems to be toward the statement merely of a number of propositions as representing the law on the topic treated, together with the citation of numerous authorities bearing a more or less intimate relation to the subject in hand. The result is rather a digest than a treatise. If the compilation has been carefully made, the work may prove serviceable to the hasty practitioner and even, as a finger post, to the lawyer who is still a student. As there is usually but slight attempt to deal with underlying principles, such a work is not of lasting value because of the mutability of latter day decisions.